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SUPPLEMENTARY AMENDMENT/ELECTION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

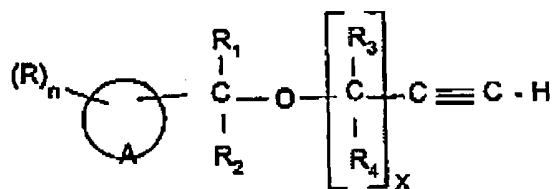
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a substituted mixed alkynyl ether of from a starting mixed alkynyl ether comprising a hydrogen atom on a triple bond, said process comprising the steps of:

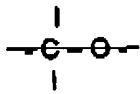
a) reacting said starting mixed ether of the following formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

- A with a cycle represents a residue of a cycle forming all or a part of an non-heterocyclic aromatic, monocyclic or polycyclic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic system comprising at least one group of formula:



- R represents one or more substituent(s), which are identical or different, being one or more electron-donating group(s) selected from the group consisting of:

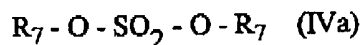
- linear or branched alkyl groups.

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- linear or branched alkenyl groups,
- linear or branched halogenoalkyl groups,
- cycloalkyl groups comprising 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
- a phenyl group,
- alkoxy groups of formula  $R_5-O-$  or thioether groups of formula  $R_5-S-$ , wherein  $R_5$  represents a linear or branched alkyl group comprising 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a phenyl group,
- groups of formula  $-N(R_6)_2$ , wherein  $R_6$  groups, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group comprising 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a phenyl group, and
- a  $-CF_3$  group
- $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a functional group, a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 24 carbon atoms, which is linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, an acyclic, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic group, a monocyclic, polycyclic or aromatic cycloaliphatic group, or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic group having a cyclic substituent,
- $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms,
- $n$  is a number smaller than or equal to 5, and
- $x$  is a number from 1 to 10, with an alkylation agent, which is:  
a dialkylsulphate of formula (IVa):



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wherein  $R_7$  represents a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or a halide compound of formula (IVb):

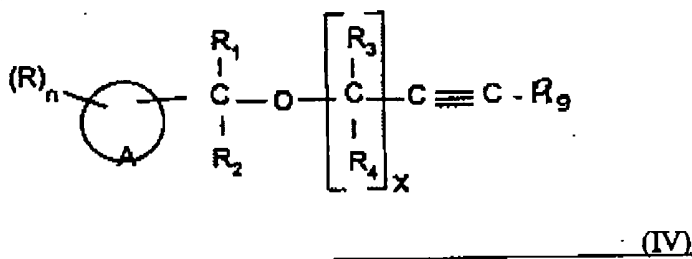
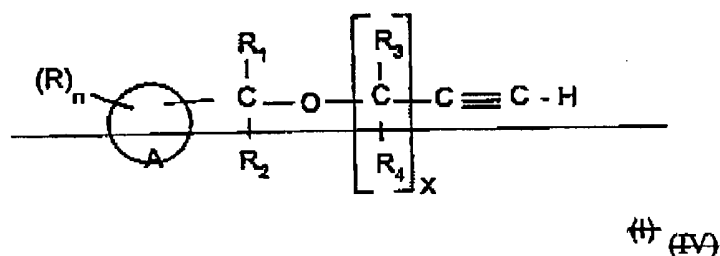


$R_8$  represents a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, acyclic aliphatic group; a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, monocyclic or polycyclic cycloaliphatic group; or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic group carrying a cyclic substituent; and

$X$  represents a bromine, chlorine or iodine atom;

in the presence of an anionisation agent which is an amide base, a metallic alcoholate or an alkali metal, and

b) recovering said substituted mixed alkynyl ether of formula (IV):



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wherein A, R, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, n and x have the meaning given above, and R<sub>9</sub> represents said R<sub>7</sub> or R<sub>8</sub> group.

~~24.~~ (Canceled)

2 ~~25.~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein x is a number from 1 to 5.

3 ~~26.~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein in formula (1):

~~-A represents a residue of a cycle forming all or a part of an aromatic, monocyclic or polycyclic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic system comprising at least one group of formula:~~



~~-R represents one or more substituent(s), which are identical or different,~~

- R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, which are identical or different, represent:

- a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, acyclic alkyl group, having an hydrocarbon chain, comprising 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the hydrocarbon chain being optionally interrupted by a heteroatom, or a functional group, and carrying optionally substituents,

- a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, acyclic aliphatic group carrying a cyclic substituent, being optionally substituted, said acyclic group being connected to the cycle via a covalent bond, a heteroatom or a functional group,

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- a carbocyclic group, saturated or comprising 1 or 2 unsaturated bonds in the cycle, containing 3 to 8 carbon atoms in the cycle, said cycle being optionally substituted,
  - an aromatic monocyclic carbocyclic group, containing at least 4 carbon atoms in the cycle, said cycle being optionally substituted, or
  - a CF<sub>3</sub> group, for one of groups R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>.
- R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms,
- n is a number smaller than or equal to 5, and
- x is a number from 1 to 10.

4 ~~27~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim 23, wherein in formula (1),  
A with a cycle is ~~a residue of a cyclic compound comprising at least 4 carbon atoms in the cycle, optionally substituted, and representing at least one of the following cycles:~~  

- an aromatic, monocyclic or polycyclic carbocycle, or
- ~~an aromatic, monocyclic or polycyclic heterocycle comprising at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, N or S.~~

5 ~~28~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim 27, wherein in formula (1),  
A with a cycle is ~~a residue of a benzene or naphthalene cycle, optionally substituted.~~

29. (Canceled)

6 ~~30~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim 27, wherein in formula (1),  
A with a cycle ~~carry~~ carries one or more electron-donating group(s) selected from the group consisting of:

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- linear or branched alkyl groups, comprising 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- linear or branched alkenyl groups, comprising 2 to 4 carbon atoms,
- linear or branched halogenoalkyl groups, comprising 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- a cyclohexyl group,
- a phenyl group,
- alkoxy groups of formula  $R_5-O-$  or thioether groups of formula  $R_5-S-$ , wherein  $R_5$  represents a linear or branched alkyl group comprising 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a phenyl group,
- groups of formula  $-N-(R_6)_2$ , wherein  $R_6$  groups, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group comprising 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a phenyl group, and
- a  $-CF_3$  group.

7 ~~31~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein  $n$  is greater than or equal to 2, two groups  $R$  and 2 successive atoms on the aromatic cycle being bonded together via an alkylene, alkenylene or alkenylidene group containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms, to form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic heterocycle containing 5 to 7 carbon atoms, one or more carbon atoms being optionally replaced by a further heteroatom.

8 ~~32~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein  $n$  is greater than or equal to 2, two groups  $R$  and 2 successive atoms on the aromatic cycle being bonded together via an alkylene, alkenylene or alkenylidene group containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms, to form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic heterocycle containing 5 to

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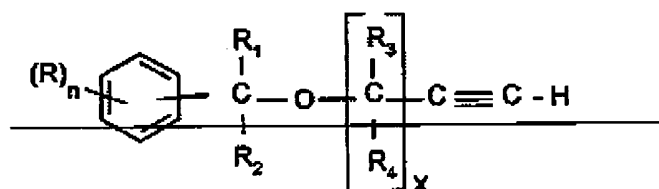
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7 carbon atoms, one or more carbon atoms being optionally replaced by a further oxygen atom.

9 ~~33~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

10 ~~34~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~33~~<sup>9</sup>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

11 ~~35~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein in formula (1): wherein that the starting mixed ether has the following formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein:

- A with a circle is phenyl.

- n is a number equal to or smaller than 4,

- x is a number equal to 1, 2 or 3,

- R group or groups are electron-donating groups,

- R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> groups, which are identical or different, represent:

- a hydrogen atom,

- a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

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- a cycloalkyl group containing 3 to 8 carbon atoms,
  - a phenyl group,
  - a phenylalkyl group containing 7 to 12 carbon atoms, or
  - a CF<sub>3</sub> group, and
- R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> groups, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

12 36. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim 3<sup>1)</sup>, wherein in formula (1)

(1a):

- n is 1 or 2,
- x is a number equal to 1, 2 or 3,
- R group or groups are methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups,
- R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> groups, which are identical or different, represent:
  - a hydrogen atom,
  - a methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl group,
  - a cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl group,
  - a phenyl group,
  - a benzyl group, or
  - a CF<sub>3</sub> group, and
- R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> groups, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms.



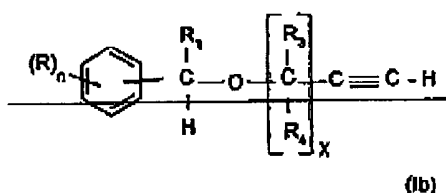
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13 ~~37.~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~, wherein in formula (1):

the starting ~~mixed ether~~ has the following formula (1b):



wherein:

- A with a circle is phenyl.

- n is equal to 1 or 2,

- R group or groups represent an alkyl or alkoxy group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a methylenedioxy group, and

- R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

14 ~~38.~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the starting mixed ether is [1-(prop-1-ynyloxy)ethyl]-3,4 dimethoxybenzene.

~~39-41. (Canceled)~~

15 ~~42.~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~, wherein X represents a chlorine atom or an iodine atom and R<sub>3</sub> represents a linear or branched alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

16 ~~43.~~ (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the alkylation agent is dimethylsulphate, methyl iodide, methyl chloride, chloroethane, methyl bromide or bromoethane.

~~44. (Canceled)~~

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17 ~~45~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the anionisation agent is selected from the group consisting of lithium diisopropylamide, and lithium hexamethyldisilazane.

18 ~~46~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~45~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the alkali metal alcoholate is sodium or potassium methylate, ethylate or tert-butylate.

19 ~~47~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~45~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the anionisation agent is sodium or potassium amide.

20 ~~48~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the reaction is carried out in an organic solvent that is inert towards the anionisation agent.

21 ~~49~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~48~~<sup>20</sup>, wherein the organic solvent is an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon.

22 ~~50~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the temperature of the reaction is comprised between 20°C and a reflux temperature of the reaction mixture.

23 ~~51~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~30~~<sup>22</sup>, wherein the temperature is comprised between 50°C and 80°C.

24 ~~52~~. (Currently amended) A The process according to claim ~~23~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the starting mixed ether of benzyl/alkynyl type of formula (I) and the anionisation agent are brought into contact in a reaction medium, the reaction medium being heated to a desired temperature, the alkylation agent being then added, and the substituted mixed ether of benzyl/alkynyl type obtained being recovered.